Arizona Department of
Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -
Thursday, May 15, 2008

DPS to present its prestigious Valor Award to officer who saved the life of fellow officer following traffic stop
The recipient, Angela Felkins, will be the first female in the agency's history to receive this award which is the highest honor DPS can bestow upon an employee

On Friday, May 16th, Director Roger Vanderpool of the Arizona Department of Public Safety will present the agency's prestigious Valor Award to DPS Officer Angela Felkins during a ceremony to recognize outstanding work by DPS employees.

On March 6, 2005, Felkins made a traffic stop on State Route 387. Two occupants of the vehicle tried to flee from Felkins as she called for back up. She eventually arrested the driver for a felony warrant and placed him in the rear seat of her patrol vehicle. The passenger would not obey commands and began to struggle with Officer Felkins and Officer Bryan Clark. During this struggle, the passenger produced a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and pointed it at Officer Clark. Officer Felkins drew her duty weapon and shot the suspect, preventing him from taking the life of Officer Clark.

When Felkins receives the DPS Valor Award tomorrow for her brave actions, it will mark the first time that a female at the agency has received this award which is the highest honor DPS can bestow upon an employee.

Also at the ceremony, a Special Recognition Award from Gary Barksdale, Assistant Inspector in Charge, United States Postal Inspection Services, will be given to the DPS Crime Lab for its work in the area of Identity Theft.

Among other significant awards to be presented tomorrow to dozens of DPS employees, DPS Officer Michael Wischmann will be presented with the Distinguished Service Award for the role he played in saving the life of a Flagstaff Police Officer during a confrontation with a gunman last year.

When: Friday, May 16th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: ADOT Human Resource Development Center
1130 N. 22nd Avenue
 Phoenix, Arizona 85009
(located beneath the stack freeway interchange)